

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-21, without prejudice, and add new claims 22-47 as follows:

22. (New) Medical handpiece, comprising in a rearward end region a coupling connection for coupling on to a flexible supply hose, with at least one delivery line for an abrasive flow medium extending from the coupling connection to an outlet which is arranged in a forward end region of the handpiece and opens into a hood-form free space of a splash guard which is releasably connected with the handpiece by a plug-in fitting having two plug-in fitting parts in the form of a plug-in recess and a plug-in pin that can be inserted therein, and a latching device integrated in the plug-in fitting, wherein the plug-in fitting has a spring tongue, elastically outwardly bendable transversely to the plug-in axis, with a latching nose arranged thereon on the one plug-in fitting part and an undercut on the other plug-in fitting part.

23. (New) Handpiece according to claim 22, wherein the spring tongue is arranged on the plug-in fitting and the undercut is arranged on the plug-in pin.

24. (New) Handpiece according to claim 22, wherein the plug-in fitting has a circumferential wall surrounding the plug-in recess, which wall is slotted by at least one longitudinal slot.

25. (New) Handpiece according to claim 22, wherein the plug-in pin is arranged in an end region of a cannula, wherein the plug-in pin is formed by means of a sleeve inserted on or screwed on to the cannula.

26. (New) Handpiece according to claim 25, wherein the cannula is releasably connected with a grip part of the handpiece.

27. (New) Handpiece according to claim 22, wherein the plug-in pin has, in axial section, a thickening with a first converging part towards a free end and a second converging part away from the free end, of which the first converging part, upon the plugging together of the plug-in fitting parts, forms a guide surface which urges the latching nose into a release position, and the second converging part forms the undercut.

28. (New) Handpiece according to claim 27, wherein the thickening is formed by a ball section shaped rounding.

29. (New) Handpiece according to claim 27, wherein the thickening is formed by a barrel-shaped rounding.

30. (New) Handpiece according to claim 22, comprising at least two longitudinal slots dispersed about the circumference.

31. (New) Handpiece according to claim 30, comprising two mutually opposed longitudinal slots.

32. (New) Handpiece according claim 22, wherein at least one of the latch nose and the spring tongue bears on the plug-in pin with a bias.

33. (New) Handpiece according to claim 22, wherein the spring tongue is, in axial section, convergently shaped at an inner side, whereby the shape of the inner side is adapted to the shape of a plug-in pin on the handpiece.

34. (New) Handpiece according to claim 22, wherein the hood-form free space diverges towards an opening thereof.

35. (New) Handpiece according to claim 22, wherein a circumferential wall surrounding the free space has in an edge region thereof at least one recess distributed around its circumference.

36. (New) Handpiece according to claim 22, wherein a circumferential wall surrounding the free space is formed by means of brush-like pins which in the circumferential direction lie closely on one another or have a spacing from one another.

37. (New) Handpiece according to claim 33, wherein in a forward region the pins are spliced.

38. (New) Handpiece according to claim 33, wherein the pins are formed by means of segments.

39. (New) Handpiece according to claim 33, wherein the pins have, at a spacing from their free end, in each case a cross-sectional weakening.

40. (New) Handpiece according to claim 39, wherein the weakening is defined by a notch on the outer side of each pin.

41. (New) Splash guard for a medical handpiece, which has in a rearward end region a coupling connection for coupling on to a flexible supply hose, at least one delivery line for an abrasive flow medium extending from the coupling connection to an outlet which is arranged in a forward end region of the handpiece, wherein the splash guard has a guard body having a hood-form free space into which a delivery line opens, and a plug-in recess having a latching nose arranged in its edge region, and is therewith releasably latched with the handpiece, the plug-in recess has associated therewith a spring tongue, elastically bendable outwardly transversely to the plug-in axis, having a latch nose arranged thereon, which latch nose is formed by means of at least one longitudinal slot, a circumferential wall of the plug-in recess.

42. (New) Splash guard according to claim 41, wherein at the edge of the guard body there is arranged at least one projecting edge section which form recesses arranged to the side with reference to the longitudinal axis of the cannula, which edge section extends over approximately the half over the circumference of the circumferential wall of the guard body.

43. (New) Splash guard according to claim 41, comprising a plurality of splash guard parts or guard bodies having different heights of their free spaces.

44. (New) Splash guard for a medical handpiece, which has in a rearward end region a coupling connection for coupling on to a flexible supply hose, wherein at least one delivery line for an abrasive flow medium extends from the coupling connection to an outlet which is arranged in the forward end region of the handpiece, wherein the splash guard has a guard body having a hood-form free space into which a delivery line opens, and wherein the splash guard has a plug-in recess having a latching nose arranged in an edge region, and is therewith releasably latched with handpiece, wherein the connection is a rotary connection in which the splash guard body is rotatable around an axially extending axis of rotation.

45. (New) Splash guard for a medical handpiece, which has in a rearward end region a coupling connection for coupling on to a flexible supply hose, wherein at least one delivery line for an abrasive flow medium extends from the coupling connection to an outlet which is arranged in a forward end region of the handpiece, wherein the splash guard has a guard body having a hood-form free space into which a delivery line opens, and wherein the splash guard is releasably connectable with the handpiece, wherein a plurality of different splash guard parts are provided, which parts can be selectively connected with the handpiece.

46. (New) Splash guard according to claim 45, wherein the plurality of different splash guard parts can be selectively connected with the handpiece by a quick connection.

47. (New) Splash guard for a medical handpiece, which has in a rearward end region a coupling connection for coupling on to a flexible supply hose, wherein at least one delivery line for an abrasive flow medium extends from the coupling connection to an outlet which is arranged in the forward end region of the handpiece, wherein the splash guard has a guard body having a hood-form free space into which a delivery line opens, and wherein the splash guard is releasably connectable with the handpiece, wherein the splash guard is screwed on to a free end region of the handpiece or on to a cannula preferably releasably connected with a grip part of the handpiece.